

December 15, 1940

THE SPIRIT

Will Eisner

THE UNDERWORLD'S GREATEST FOE IS, IN REALITY DENNY COLT, WHO WAS BELIEVED DEAD, OPERATING AS THE SPIRIT FROM WILLOWOOD CEMETERY WHERE HE WAS MISTAKENLY BURIED, HE SMASHES THE ENEMIES OF SOCIETY



I'M JOHNNY BEAVER AND I'M A TOUGH GUY!! TODAY THEY'RE GONNA TURN ME LOOSE!!



YEAH... I'VE BEEN UP HERE IN STIR (JAIL TO YOU) FOR THREE YEARS... WHEN I FIRST CAME IN I WAS A GREEN KID... STOLE AUTO TIRES... BUT NOW... HA HA... I'M WISED UP!... THE OLD GUYS UP HERE HAVE TAUGHT ME THE ROPES! WHEN I GET OUT I'M JOINING UP WITH SLIM PICKENS' GANG... SLIM YOU KNOW, IS THE BIGGEST GANGSTER IN AMERICA, ... PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1!!



ICE BEAKER IN THE MACHINE SHOP SAYS ALL I GOTTA DO IS SAY I DONE TIME WITH HIM, AND PRESTO... I'M A REG'AR MEMBER OF THE PICKENS GANG!! NONE OF THIS GONN' STRAIGHT STUFF FER ME!! YES SIR... YER GONNA HEAR ABOUT JOHNNY BEAVER SOME DAY!



HEY, JOHNNY... MIND IF WE BUNK THIS NEW GUEST WITH YOU?

NAW, TURNKEY... I'M BEIN' PAROLED TODAY ANYHOW!



HI YA, PAL! WHAT'S YER HANDLE... AN' HOW LONG YA IN FOR?

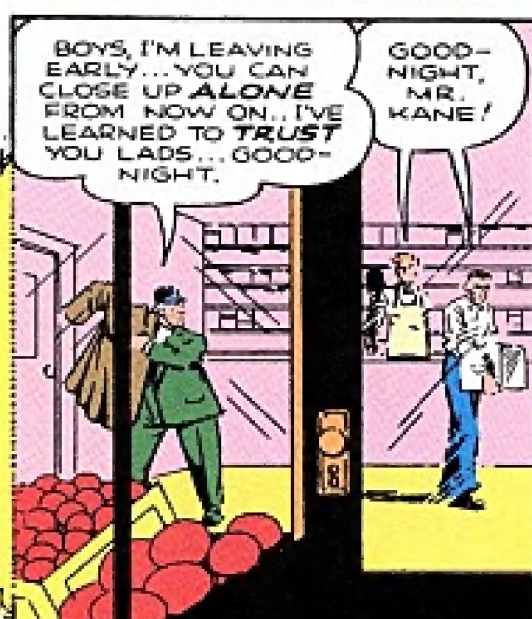
NOSEY... AIN'T'CHA?



WHY, I'LL...

MY NAME'S SLIM PICKENS... AND I'M IN HERE FOR FIVE HOURS....





WITH A COUPLE OF BALS I MET AT THE LOCAL POOL ROOM, I QUICKLY LOADED A TRUCK WITH THE GROCERIES AND STARTED OUT.....



...IT WAS THE GUN THAT MADE ME SUCCESSFUL... BOY!!... WHAT A GUN IN THE HAND OF A COWARD DOES!!... IT MAKES HIM SMART, BRAVE.... EVERYTHING THAT HE REALLY ISN'T!!... WELL, TWO MONTHS LATER....



...AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, THERE I WAS... HEAD OF THE 86 TENTH DISTRICT MOB !!



THE REST WAS EASY... WITH A GUN FOR A BRAIN, I BEGAN SMOKING OUT THE OPPOSITION... JUST LIKE THE BIG DICTATORS IN EUROPE DO..



REMEMBER THE HALLOWEEN MASSACRE?... THAT WAS ME!!



...BY THE END OF A YEAR I HAD MY 100,000 DOLLARS, BUT...



...I HIRED THE BEST CROOKED LAWYERS... PLANNED ROBBERIES WITH THE BEST MONEY ENGINEERS THAT I COULD FIND....

OF COURSE MY MEN CAN DO IT! THE WHOLE BANK WILL BE EMPTIED IN 2½ MINUTES!

THEY'D BETTER! ONE SECOND WASTED, AND...



...WITH THE AID OF GUNMEN I PUT KEY MEN INTO OFFICE...



...BRIBERY AND TERROR DID THE REST!!... I SOON CONTROLLED EVERY POLITICIAN EXCEPT THE MAYOR AND THE POLICE COMMISSIONER....

LOOK HERE, DOLAN... WHY DON'T CHA BE SENSIBLE AND RESIGN? HERE'S A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

BRIBE. EH???



WHY, YOU MISERABLE THUG!!! I'VE SEEN YOUR KIND BEFORE... ROB... CHEAT... KILL... BUT THE HONEST PEOPLE ALWAYS WIN OUT... AND I'M GOING TO BE IN OFFICE TO SEE IT HAPPEN!



HEY, BOSS... DO IT?... NO... HE CAN'T DO A THING... MY POLITICIANS WILL BLOCK EVERY MOVE HE MAKES... HAW!! HONEST PEOPLE! WHY, EVERY HONEST SAPI IN TOWN IS SCARED OF ME!



I WAS RIGHT... BUT I FORGOT ABOUT ONE HONEST GUY... THE SPIRIT!!



WELL, SPIRIT... DECIDED TO JOIN UP WITH ME? HAVE A DRINK!



HMM... THIS THE GLASS YOU JUST DRANK FROM? A LITTLE OF THIS CIGARETTE ASH WILL DO.... SPRINKLED THUSLY...



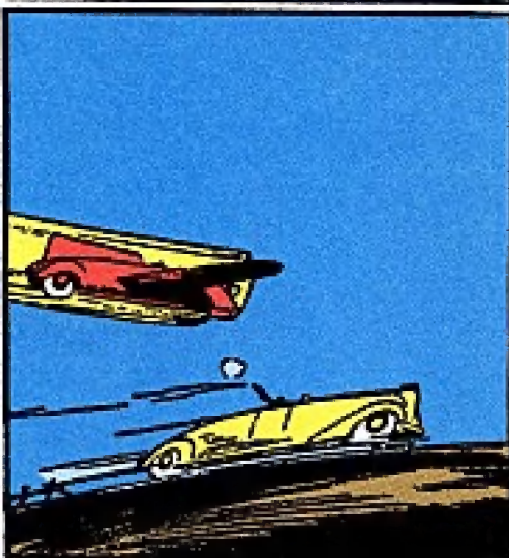
HEY! WHAT'S ALL THIS HOKUS POKUS??



THIS, MY SKINNY NAPOLEON, IS YOUR WATERLOO! YOUR FINGER-PRINTS ARE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE FOUND ON THE JACK HANDLE THAT KILLED ABEL KANE!!



...I WAS OUT ON EAST HIGHWAY THINKING THAT I'D MADE A NICE GETAWAY. WHEN OUT OF THE SKY COMES THE SPIRIT IN A FLYING AUTO I AINT EVER SEEN BEFORE.



.. I'M GUN-CRAZY BY THEN SO I OPEN FIRE....



..BUT AT THE SAME TIME I FORGET TO LOOK WHERE I'M GOIN'.....



..LUCK WAS WITH ME....I WASNT HURT..AND AS SOON AS I'M ON MY FEET, I RUN FOR THE NEAREST HOUSE.....



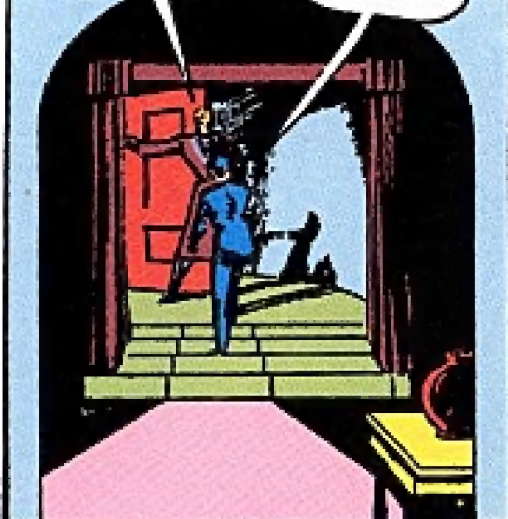
WHY!!..IT'S TED GROVER! IN THIS SWANKY HOUSE!



WHEN YOU KILLED ABEL KANE, HIS STORE WAS LEFT TO ME... BY HARD WORK I BUILT IT UP....



HERE...OUT THIS WAY... YOU MAY HAVE A CHANCE, SLIM..... GOOD LUCK....



..I LIT OUT ACROSS THE YARD...MY FEET SEEMED LIKE LEAD.....



..SUDDENLY SOMETHING LIKE AN EXPRESS TRAIN HIT ME....IT WAS THE SPIRIT....



